

Archaeological sites and artifacts on lands managed by the BLM are protected by numerous laws that began with the American Antiquities Act in 1906 and include the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1978. ARPA states that no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface, or attempt to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands without a permit issued from the BLM or appropriate land-management agency. These permits are granted to qualified archaeologists associated with institutions or contracting firms.